

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of managing a project, comprising:
 - 2 (a) receiving data representing attributes of a project from a project manager, the project
 - 3 comprising at least one task;
 - 4 (b) receiving data identifying attributes of the task;
 - 5 (c) assigning the at least one task to at least one task-responsible person;
 - 6 (d) automatically providing a notice to the task-responsible person, the notice identifying the
 - 7 assignment of the task;
 - 8 (e) receiving at least one task report from the corresponding task-responsible person;
 - 9 (f) providing the corresponding task-responsible person and the project manager read-write
 - 10 access to the task report; and
 - 11 (g) providing at least one other person read-only access to the task report.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 the project comprises a plurality of tasks;
3 step (b) includes receiving data identifying attributes of a plurality of tasks; and
4 step (e) includes receiving a plurality of task reports from a plurality of corresponding
5 task-responsible persons.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) includes assigning an additional task to the at
2 least one other person having read-only access to the task report.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 automatically providing a notice to the project manager upon completion of one of the
3 tasks.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data identifying attributes of the task contain a due
2 date, the method further comprising:
3 automatically providing a notice to the task-responsible person, the notice identifying the
4 due date, the notice being provided a predetermined number of days before the due date.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the task comprises at least one item, the method further
2 comprising:
3 (a) receiving data representing attributes of the item;
4 (b) assigning the at least one item to at least one item-responsible person;
5 (c) automatically providing a notice to the item-responsible person, the notice identifying the
6 assignment of the item;
7 (d) receiving at least one item report from the corresponding item-responsible person;
8 (e) providing the corresponding item-responsible person, the corresponding task-responsible
9 person, and the project manager read-write access to the item report; and
10 (f) providing at least one other person read-only access to the item report.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the task comprises a plurality of items, wherein:
2 step (a) includes receiving data representing attributes of a plurality of items; and
3 step (d) includes receiving a plurality of item reports from a plurality of corresponding
4 item-responsible persons.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein step (b) includes assigning an additional item to the at
2 least one other person having read-only access to the item report.

1 9. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 automatically providing a notice to the corresponding task-responsible person upon
3 completion of one of items.

1 10. The method of claim 6, wherein the data identifying the item contain a due date, the
2 method further comprising:
3 automatically providing a notice to the item-responsible person, the notice identifying the
4 due date, the notice being provided a predetermined number of days before the due date.

1 11. A computer-implemented system for managing a project, comprising:
2 means for receiving data representing attributes of a project from a project manager, the
3 project comprising at least one task;

4 means for receiving data identifying attributes of the task;
5 means for receiving data identifying an assignment of each task to at least one task-
6 responsible person;
7 means for automatically providing a notice to the task-responsible person , the notice
8 identifying the assignment of the task;
9 means for receiving at least one task report from the corresponding task-responsible
10 person;
11 a database storing data representing attributes of the project, data identifying attributes of
12 the task, data identifying an assignment of the at least one task, and the task report;
13 means for permitting the corresponding task-responsible person and the project manager
14 to edit the task report; and
15 means for permitting at least one other person to have a read-only access to the task
16 report.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein:
2 the project comprises a plurality of tasks;
3 the means for receiving attribute data identified attributes of each of a plurality of tasks;
4 and
5 the report receiving means receives a plurality of task reports from a plurality of
6 corresponding task-responsible persons.

1 13. The system of claim 11, wherein means for receiving assignment data identifies the
2 assignment of at least one other person having read-only access to the task report.

1 14. The system of claim 11, further comprising:
2 means for automatically providing a notice to the project manager upon completion of
3 one of the tasks.

1 15. The system of claim 11, wherein the data identifying attributes of the task contain a due
2 date, the system further comprising:

3 means for automatically providing a notice to the task-responsible person, the notice
4 identifying the due date, the notice being provided a predetermined number of days before the
5 due date.

1 16. The system of claim 11, wherein the task comprises at least one item, the system further
2 comprising:

3 means for receiving data representing attributes of the item;

4 means for receiving data identifying an assignment of the at least one item to at least one
5 item-responsible person;

6 means for automatically providing a notice to the item-responsible person, the notice
7 identifying the assignment of the task;

8 means for receiving at least one item report from the corresponding item-responsible
9 person;

10 a database storing data representing attributes of the task, data identifying an assignment
11 of the at least one item, and the item report;

12 means for permitting the corresponding item-responsible person, the corresponding task-
13 responsible person, and the project manager to edit the item report; and

14 means for permitting at least one other person to have a read-only access to the item
15 report.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the task comprises a plurality of items, wherein:
2 the attribute data receiving means receives data representing attributes of a plurality of
3 items; and
4 the report receiving means receives a plurality of item reports from a plurality of
5 corresponding item-responsible persons.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the assignment data receiving means identifies the
2 assignment of the at least one other person having read-only access to the item report.

1 19. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

2 means for automatically providing a notice to the corresponding task-responsible person
3 upon completion of one of items.

1 20. The system of claim 16, wherein the data identifying the item contain a due date, the
2 system further comprising:

3 means for automatically providing a notice to the item-responsible person, the notice
4 identifying the due date, the notice being provided a predetermined number of days before the
5 due date.

1 21. A computer readable medium with computer program code, wherein, when the computer
2 program code is executed by a processor, the processor performs a method of managing a
3 project, comprising the steps of:

- 4 (a) receiving data representing attributes of a project from a project manager, the project
5 comprising at least one task;
- 6 (b) receiving data identifying attributes of the task;
- 7 (c) assigning the at least one task to at least one task-responsible person;
- 8 (d) automatically providing a notice to the task-responsible person, the notice identifying the
9 assignment of the task;
- 10 (e) receiving at least one task report from the corresponding task-responsible person;
- 11 (f) providing the corresponding task-responsible person and the project manager read-write
12 access to the task report; and
- 13 (g) providing at least one other person read-only access to the task report.

1 22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein
2 the project comprises a plurality of tasks;
3 step (b) includes receiving data identifying attributes of a plurality of tasks; and
4 step (e) includes receiving a plurality of task reports from a plurality of corresponding
5 task-responsible persons.

1 23. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein step (c) includes assigning an
2 additional task to the at least one other person having read-only access to the task report.

1 24. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises
2 automatically providing a notice to the project manager upon completion of one of the tasks.

1 25. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the data identifying attributes of the
2 task contain a due date, wherein the method further comprises automatically providing a notice
3 to the task-responsible person, the notice identifying the due date, the notice being provided a
4 predetermined number of days before the due date.

1 26. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the task comprises at least one item,
2 wherein the method further comprises:

- 3 (a) receiving data representing attributes of the item;
- 4 (b) assigning the at least one item to at least one item-responsible person;
- 5 (c) automatically providing a notice to the item-responsible person, the notice identifying the
6 assignment of the item;
- 7 (d) receiving at least one item report from the corresponding item-responsible person;
- 8 (e) providing the corresponding item-responsible person, the corresponding task-responsible
9 person, and the project manager read-write access to the item report; and
- 10 (f) providing at least one other person read-only access to the item report.

1 27. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the task comprises a plurality of
2 items, wherein:

- 3 step (a) includes receiving data representing attributes of a plurality of items; and
- 4 step (d) includes receiving a plurality of item reports from a plurality of corresponding
5 item-responsible persons.

1 28. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein step (b) includes assigning an
2 additional item to the at least one other person having read-only access to the item report.

1 29. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the method further comprises
2 automatically providing a notice to the corresponding task-responsible person upon completion
3 of one of items.

1 30. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the data identifying the item contain
2 a due date, wherein the method further comprises automatically providing a notice to the item-
3 responsible person, the notice identifying the due date, the notice being provided a
4 predetermined number of days before the due date.

1 31. A computer-implemented opinion integration system, comprising:
2 means for receiving a plurality of patent related data;
3 means for sending a request for an opinion associated with the patent related data to a
4 predetermined person;
5 means for receiving the opinion details;
6 a database for associating the opinion with the patent related data and for storing the
7 opinion and the patent related data.

1 32. A computer-implemented information integration system, comprising:
2 a database for receiving a plurality of patent data;
3 the database for receiving a plurality of entity data;
4 the database for receiving a plurality of evidence data;
5 the database associating the patent data, the entity data, and the evidence data to each
6 other and storing the patent data, the entity data, and the evidence data.

1 33. The system of claim 22, wherein the patent data comprises patent-identifying data and
2 patent-abstract data.

1 34. The system of claim 22, wherein the entity data comprises entity-identifying data, entity-
2 products data, and entity-finance data.

1 35. The system of claim 22, wherein the evidence data comprises product-analysis data and
2 associated publication data.

1 36. The system of claim 25, wherein the product-analysis data comprises an outside reverse-
2 engineering report and an internal reverse-engineering report.

1 37. The system of claim 25, wherein the associated publication data comprises paper-
2 publication data and website-publication data.

1 38. The system of claim 22, further comprising:
2 means for receiving a search query;
3 means for searching the database; and
4 means for presenting a search result.